

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer system includes a peripheral device and a processing unit. The processing unit is adapted to execute a driver for interfacing with the peripheral device in a standard mode of operation and an authentication agent in a privileged mode of operation, wherein the authentication agent includes program instructions adapted to authenticate the driver. The peripheral device may comprise a communications device, such as a software modem. A method for identifying security violations in a computer system includes executing a driver in a standard processing mode of a processing unit; transitioning the processing unit into a privileged processing mode; and authenticating the driver in the privileged processing mode. The driver may be adapted for interfacing with a communications peripheral device, such as a software modem.